MYSA

Chuck's Food Shack set for Thanksgiving

Page D1

ExpressNews.com/Food

Video: See Chuck Blount's turkey before and after its overnight smoking.

Alma E. Hernandez / For the Express-News

SPORTS

Spurs best Mavs in Dallas 97-91

LaMarcus Aldridge racks up season-high 32 points as S.A. team goes 9-5. **Page C1**

Roy Bragg: If sports betting ban goes, expect chaos to ensue. **Page C1**

METRO

Interstate closures will snarl traffic this weekend

Page A3

San Antonio Express-News

ExpressNews.com and mySA.com | Wednesday, November 15, 2017 | The voice of South Texas since 1865

Sessions insists he did not lie to Congress on Russia contact

Brendan Smialowski / Getty Images

Attorney General Jeff Sessions and U.S. Rep. Tom Marino, R-Pa., shake hands during a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee. Congressional Republicans have consistently been Sessions' most important allies.

He now recalls pushing back on suggested meeting with Putin

By Matt Apuzzo and Nicholas Fandos
NEW YORK TIMES

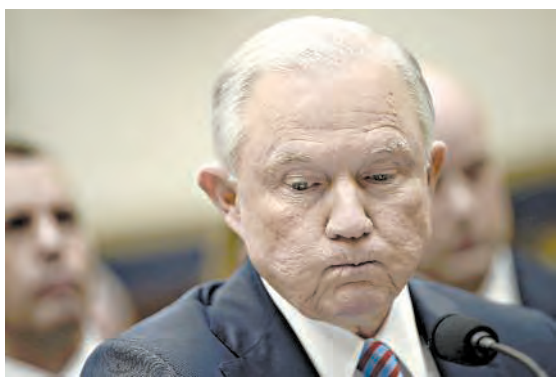
WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday denied, again, lying to Congress about the Trump campaign's ties to Russia. He said he had forgotten about a campaign round-table in which an aide touted his Russian connections and suggested arranging a meeting for Donald Trump in Moscow.

But even as Sessions remained hazy on the details, he was adamant that he had swiftly rejected the aide's suggestion.

"I have always told the truth," Sessions told the House Judiciary Committee, adding that he stood by his previous testimony because "I had no recollection of this meeting until I saw these news reports."

Sessions, a former senator and an architect of Trump's policies on trade and immigration, was supposed to be an influential force in the administration. Instead he has twice amended his sworn testimony, creating a distraction for the White House and renewing questions about

Sessions continues on A13



Sessions did not appear to endorse appointing a special counsel to look into a uranium deal and donations to the Clinton Foundation.

"You're accusing me of lying about that? ... I don't think it is right to accuse me of doing something wrong."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, saying he did not intentionally mislead anyone about fleeting and forgotten meetings in previous testimony

Inside

WikiLeaks: Trump campaign digital director Brad Parscale reportedly knew transparency group messaged Donald Trump Jr. **Metro, A3**

Alabama race: Republicans look to Trump to step into fray over Senate hopeful Roy Moore. **Page A10**

Dossier: House panel questions CEO of Fusion GPS. **Page A13**

Shake-up has some shaking fingers

Others just want to focus on saving Tricentennial

By Josh Baugh
STAFF WRITER

A day after Tricentennial CEO Edward Benavides resigned amid continued "negativity" surrounding the administration of San Antonio's 300th birthday, questions swirled, fingers pointed and San Antonio officials were left scrambling to save the grand, yearlong celebration that begins in just more than a month.

With the Tricentennial just weeks away, some city and commission officials are loath to litigate what went wrong, instead insisting they have a laserlike focus on ensuring the series of events come off without a hitch. Others, though, want answers.

On Tuesday, freshman City Council member Greg Brockhouse — who sits on the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee — called for an immedi-

Birthday continues on A8

Concrete plant foes lawyer up; Kendall requests hearing

By Zeke MacCormack
STAFF WRITER

BOERNE — Vulcan Materials' move to establish a concrete batching plant off Texas 46 about 8 miles east of town is drawing scrutiny from Kendall County and strong opposition from a nearby school and adjoining neighborhoods.

The project has sparked the creation of a resistance group, the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Coalition, whose members include residents in the subdivisions of Cordillera Ranch, Coveney Ranch and Pleasant Valley.

The organization hired attorney Charles Irvine this week to oppose the standard air permit

Kendall continues on A9

Tax bill's relief uneven, even among ZIP codes

By Kevin Diaz
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Asked to define the "middle class," Texas U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, the top tax-writer in Congress, told reporters recently that there is no precise answer because much of it depends on where you live.

The landmark GOP tax bill headed for a House vote Thursday reflects that nebulous and hyperlocal calculus. It would distribute promised middle-class tax relief unevenly among different states and even ZIP codes. Those regional disparities — based largely on how communities handle state and local sales taxes — account for much of the political friction over Brady's tax plan.

Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, says everyone "will be better off," even if some see tax increases.

Tax bill continues on A8

Christmas tree takes place of Confederate statue

William Luther / San Antonio Express-News

The removal of Travis Park's Confederate monument in September made room for the city's Christmas tree, a white fir that stood tall but bare Tuesday. Lighting of the tree is set for Nov. 24, with plans to turn the park into a winter wonderland. **More, A2**

WEATHER

HIGH **78** LOW **60** Mostly cloudy
Full report, C10

TRICENTENNIAL

La Villita preservation dates to Great Depression. **Page A12**

365 days of tacos

Lamb barbacoa and egg taco on a flour tortilla at Panchos & Gringos. **ExpressNews.com/Tacos**

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